

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1806

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PASS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR DIRECTOR FBI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (LORD HARRIS OF GREENWICH), UK

SUBJECT: VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY LORD HARRIS,
MINISTER OF STATE AT THE HOME OFFICE

1. THE PRIVATE SECRETARY OF LORD HARRIS OF GREENWICH, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE HOME OFFICE, HAS INFORMED US THAT HARRIS PROPOSES TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN SEPTEMBER. THIS WILL BE AN OFFICIAL TRIP FINANCED BY HMG.

2. PURPOSE OF HARRIS' VISIT IS TO CONSULT VARIOUS NATIONAL STATE AND MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. HARRIS IS PRINCIPAL MINISTER IN THE HOME OFFICE DEALING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS. HIS MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST ARE US EXPERIENCES IN HANDLING KIDNAPPING AND TERRORISM. HE INTENDS TO VISIT CHICAGO SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE ROCHFORD WHOM HE HAS ENTERTAINED IN UK, AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CODD OF NEW YORK CITY. IN BOTH CASES HARRIS WILL MAKE HIS ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY WITH THOSE OFFICIALS.

3. HARRIS IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO CONSULT FBI OFFICIALS AND IF POSSIBLE MEET THE DIRECTOR. TO THIS END WE HAVE BEEN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR DIRECTOR FBI TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO HIM TO CONSULT
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AT THE BUREAU DURING WASHINGTON PORTION OF HIS TRIP.

HARRIS WOULD LIKE TO BE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 7, 8 AND
9. HE COULD ARRANGE TO BE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 14,
15 AND 16 BUT THAT WOULD BE MUCH LESS CONVENIENT FOR HIM.

4. HARRIS IS AN ABLE AND HIGHLY RESPECTED MINISTER. HE
HAS BEEN AT THE HOME OFFICE SINCE MARCH 1974. DURING THE
RECENT EC REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN HE WAS ONE OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF "KEEP BRITAIN IN EUROPE."
HE IS ONE OF THE CLOSEST POLITICAL FRIENDS OF HIS BOSS
ROY JENKINS. NOW 45 YEARS OLD HARRIS WAS PERSONAL
ASSISTANT TO FORMER LABOR PARTY LEADER HUGH GAITSKILL.
HE WAS AN EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOW (1972) AND BEFORE
ENTERING POLITICS HAD AN EXTENSIVE CAREER IN JOURNALISM.

5. WE THINK IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE AND MUTUALLY
USEFUL IF THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE
HARRIS AND OFFER SOME APPROPRIATE HOSPITALITY. FURTHER,
WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVE HARRIS
AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL. WE HAVE COORDINATED
THIS MESSAGE WITH LOCAL FBI REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL BE
SENDING A SEPARATE TELEGRAM TO HIS HEADQUARTERS ENDORSING
OUR RECOMMENDATION.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY INDICATION OF POSSIBILI-
TIES OF HARRIS BEING RECEIVED IN STATE AND AT FBI ON
DATES IN PARA 3 ABOVE.

RICHARDSON

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